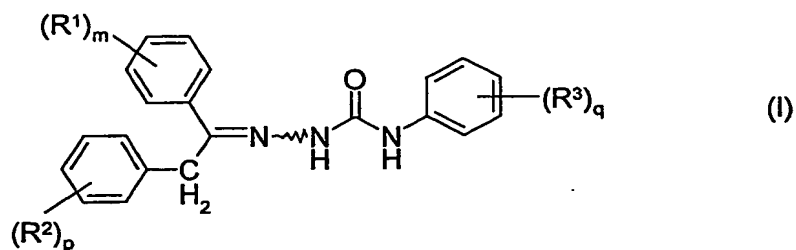


Claims:

1. A process for the isomerisation of the Z-isomer I-Z of a compound of the general formula I into its E-isomer I-E



wherein

10 m, p and q are each independently an integer of 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4
 R¹, R², R³ are each independently halogen; OH; CN; NO₂;
 C₁-C₆-alkyl, optionally substituted with C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy or C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl;
 C₁-C₆-haloalkyl;
 C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl;
 15 C₁-C₆-alkoxy optionally substituted with C₁-C₄-alkoxy or C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl;
 C₁-C₆-haloalkoxy;
 C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl;
 C₃-C₆-cycloalkoxy;
 20 C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl or
 C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyloxy;

which is characterized in that the Z isomer I-Z or a mixture of the stereoisomers I-Z and I-E is reacted in the presence of iodine.

- 25 2. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein iodine is used in amounts from 0,1 to 10% by weight, based on the total amount of the compound of the general formula I.
- 30 3. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the isomerisation is performed in an inert solvent or diluent.
4. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the isomerisation is performed in the absence of a solvent or diluent.
- 35 5. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein a mixture of the isomers I-Z and I-E having an E/Z ratio ranging from 15 : 1 to 2 : 1 is reacted.

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6. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the isomerisation is performed at a temperature ranging from 40 to 150°C.
- 5 7. The process as claimed in claim 1, where in formula I
m, p and q are each 1 and
R¹, R², R³ are each independently halogen, CN, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl,
C₁-C₆-alkoxy or C₁-C₆-haloalkoxy.
- 10 8. The process as claimed in claim 7, where in formula I R¹ is CF₃ located in the 3-position of the phenyl ring, R² is CN located in the 4-position of the phenyl ring and R³ is OCF₃ located in the 4-position of the phenyl ring.